

REMARKS

Of claims 1-19 pending in this application, claims 1-7 and 12-19 have been withdrawn, and claim 8 has been amended. Applicant believes this case is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 8-11 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerbec in view of Sekel. Claim 8 has been amended to further distinguish it from these references. The Gerbec reference uses a press fit between the stem and the body. Claim 8 now calls for a sleeve which is capable of being press fit into a bone. In addition, Gerbec allows body 41 to rotate freely on stem 42 after stem 42 is placed into the body 41 before 42 is press fit into 41. The components under claim 8 are configured to prevent axial rotation once stem 340 is placed into body 330, because the fixation element is sized to prevent rotation within the sleeve.

In Gerbec, bolt 16 acts as a tool to draw the components together. Sleeve 41 is expanded by the wedge-shaped stem to achieve a press fit. The components of the present invention are not press fit together. Bolt 248 is used to draw the components together and to hold them together. The press fit between sleeve 330 and the femur limits how much the stem and body are drawn together, not the press fit of the two prosthetic components. These differences are highlighted in amended claim 8. As claim 9-11 depend from claim 8, they should be allowable if claim 8 is allowable.

As no claims have been added by this amendment, it is believed that no fee is due with this amendment. Also, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited.

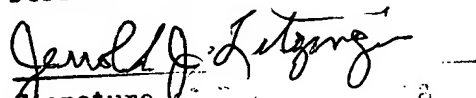
Respectfully submitted,



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